

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

7/1/98  
m.6  
12/2/98  
RECEIVED  
DEC - 2 1999  
TC 2700 MAIL ROOM

U. S. Serial No.: 08/822,661  
Filing Date: 03/24/97  
Inventors: Jennings, et al  
Title: DIGITAL CERTIFICATE



Responsive to Office Action Dated 05/20/1999

4201 SW Vacuna  
Portland, OR 97219  
Date: November 22, 1999

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of creating a digitally stored digital certificate, the method comprising the steps:
- selecting a given character set;
  - designating from said given character set a protected area border character;
  - providing said certificate as a sequence of members of said given character set;
  - defining in said certificate a protected area as members of said given character set located between one and a next occurrence of said protected area border character;
  - storing at least one digital component in said protected area;
  - calculating a digital value as a function of digital content stored in said protected area;
- and
- storing a digital signature in said certificate but outside said protected area, said digital signature being encrypted and a function of said value.